# ELSAH HISTORY

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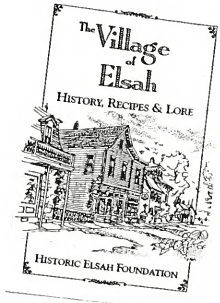
## *Update on Village Happenings*

Historic Elsah Foundation is planning a house and garden tour in the Village this October 9. Details can be found on the back page of this newsletter.

Also this fall, Elsah will be featured this fall on the Bob Villa show as part of a series on restoration and preservation called "Restore America" (Home and Garden channel). There are to be 50 half-hour segments, one on each state. Our village figures along with Chicago, Peoria, and Rockford in the chapter on Illinois. Watch for it in October (date not yet certain.)

Recipe Book; A new booklet, *The Village of Elsah: History, Recipes & Lore*, has just been published. With deep appreciation we have accepted this gift from Sue Collester, a member of Historic Elsah Foundation, who has compiled and edited this booklet as a fund raiser. The booklet is filled with art work generously donated by Glenn Felch, Professor of Art at Principia College. Samples of this art work have been used to illustrate this newsletter. The price of the new recipe book is $4.00 + $1.00 for handling and postage.




The old ice house ruin on Mill Street has been shored up and beautifully tuck-pointed so that now it no longer poses any danger of collapse. HEF is very grateful to the anonymous donor who made it all possible.

Watch for a new business to open soon in the historic Mott building.

Over the past year a lot of work has been done on the building to prepare it for use as a restaurant and we are now negotiating with a prospective tenant. Our next newsletter, which we expect to publish later this year, will bring you up to date on this latest venture.

The Mott Building on LaSalle Street, will house Elsah's newest business

Elsah has said good-bye to two of its most active couples:

- Bill and Mary North have resettled in the Phoenix area where Bill's been assigned to a new Episcopal parish in full spate. Their house is now the home of Susan and Mark Young and their family.

- Joe and Janet Eigner are going to share their lives between Elsah and Santa Fe, New Mexico. They plan to commute (!) monthly. Jan will maintain her psychotherapy practice in St. Louis, scheduling all her appointments in a week each month. At least we'll see them now and then and their house will be lived in. There were farewell parties for both couples in Farley's.

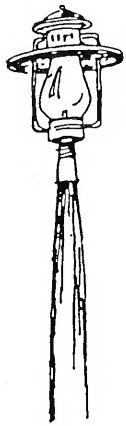
Gil Ives is back in town, living in the former Denham house. That property has been restored to better than new by Ed and Jeri Lewitz.

Sarah Batzer and Tim Jasina with their two children are planning to move to the Alton area. We're very sorry to lose their presence. They've contributed in so many ways to village life.

The Village museum has been moved from the Old Schoolhouse to the Village Hall where it is now accessible to those with disabilities. The former museum location (top floor of the school) will serve as the storehouse for village records and office for the village clerk.

The village museum has a new home in the Village Hall

The Village has received a grant of $100,000 from the State of Illinois for new restrooms. Increased tourism is expected as a result of the Scenic By-Ways designation and the present public facilities are already inadequate, according to Mayor Jane Pfeifer.



Another fire came close to disaster in Elsah. On July 16, fire broke out at the rear of Riverview house. Fortunately, a utilities lineman saw the smoke, cut the electricity off and called the fire department. There was considerable damage to a corner of the building, but it can be repaired. The owner, Principia College, has not yet determined what it will do.

If you are in the Village and see a beautiful red vintage convertible on the street, it probably will be Ned Bradley sporting around in his recently restored 1949 MG, model YT. But it might also be Mary Ann Pitchford's red 1934 Mercedes reproduction convertible, a real eye-popper.

✠ Scenic By-Way: Saturday, June 26, the Great River Road was dedicated as part of the national Scenic By-Ways. A motorcade paraded through town (including Ned Bradley's beautiful MG). Unfortunately, the rain just poured down, but it didn't dampen the spirits of enthusiastic participants.

✠ A tribute to Elsah which appears in *The Village of Elsah: History, Recipes & Lore.*

## *"Know Ye the Hills of Elsah"*

*from The Great River by Frederick Oakes Sylvester*

*Know ye the hills of Elsah*
*That range by the river's side,*
*Where quaint, old-fashioned house*
*Behind the fir trees hide?*

*Know ye the vales of Elsah*
*That run from the water's edge,*
*With shady pathways leading*
*Upward to cliff and ledge?*

*Know ye the life of Elsah,*
*Elsah asleep by the stream,*
*With trembling lips that murmur*
*The World's name in her dream?*

*Have I not lived at Elsah,*
*And climbed the Elsah hills*
*And stood aloft on Elsah's cliffs*
*And felt, with heart-deep thrills,*
*The glory of the sunset,*
*The purple Grafton heights,*
*The Mississippi's burnished gold*
*Aglow with a million lights?*

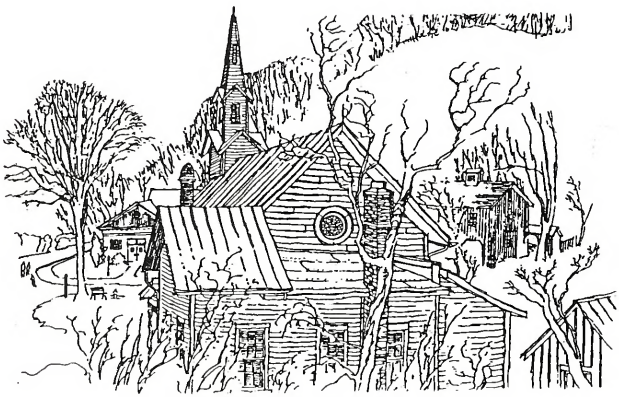
*Frederick Oakes Sylvester*
*(1869-1915)*
*was known as the Poet-Painter of the*
*Upper Mississippi River Valley.*

The Village of Elsah

# FUTURE EVENTS

- **House and Garden Tour and Art and Crafts show and sale:**
  Saturday, October 9, from 10:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.
  Tickets: $10.00; may be purchased through Metro-Tix outlets in the St. Louis area or in Farley's Music Hall the day of the tour.

- **Christmas Sing:** One of the happiest annual events in the Village is the Christmas Sing sponsored by the Elsah United Methodist Church, the Christian Science Church, and Historic Elsah Foundation. This year the Christmas Sing will be on Sunday, December 19, starting in the Christian Science Church at 2:00 P.M. for the first half, moving to the Methodist Church for the second half. The Sing ends with refreshments in Farley's Music Hall. If you find yourself in Elsah for the holidays, please join us.



The two churches on Selma Square

The sketches used to illustrate this newsletter have been reproduced from our new booklet, *The Village of Elsah: History, Recipes & Lore*, and are used with permission of the artist, Glenn Felch, Professor of Art at Principia College.


## Historic Elsah Foundation

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